



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

September 7, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to invite you to attend a public forum to discuss options for a Public Health Institute in Wisconsin.

We are giving this idea serious consideration because an institute could provide additional capacity and leadership for public health in the state and serve as a bridge between the Department, academic institutions, and other public health partners. It could also promote economic development in Wisconsin by attracting public health and medical research investment and creating high-technology jobs in the medical research and health services research industries.

I have asked Susan Wood of the Division of Public Health to host these public forums to obtain feedback from a wide audience of stakeholders in our public health system. The forums will be held in four locations. Two of the four sessions will also be broadcast live over the Internet so that people can participate without travelling to the site. These two sessions will also be available on demand after the broadcast for viewing at a later time. A flyer is attached showing the locations, dates and times of the forums along with directions to the sites and for using the Internet option.

The forums will be structured around the six questions listed on the attached document. I hope that you will read the report on options for a Public Health Institute that was published in May 2004 (<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aboutDHFS/dph/restructure/PHIreport5-04.pdf>), consider these questions, and participate in one of the forums. Following the forums, we will consider your advice as we develop recommendations for the consideration in the 2005–2007 state biennial budget.

Please contact Jackie Moss at [Mossjp@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:Mossjp@dhfs.state.wi.us) if you plan to attend the session in person so that we can assure that we have appropriate accommodations. It is not necessary to confirm if you plan to participate via the Internet. If you are unable to participate in the forums but want to give input, please send me your ideas by using the following e-mail address: [DPHRestuc@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:DPHRestuc@dhfs.state.wi.us)

Thank you for your help in developing ideas for a Public Health Institute.

Sincerely

Helene Nelson  
Secretary

Attachment